

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: Karen Terrill
Public Information Officer
916 653-5123

RELEASE
DATE: November 13, 2002

Fire Season Winding Down in Most of the State Far South to Remain on Fire Season Status

Sacramento- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is transitioning out of fire season in most of the state, with the exception of San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Luis Obispo counties. Recent rains have provided enough moisture to lessen the threat of wildfire in state responsibility area around the state except in the far south which remains extremely dry and may experience Santa Ana winds this week. Those counties will remain on fire season status for the time being.

As of 8 a.m. Wednesday November 13, 2002 all CDF units north of Tulare will be out of fire season. The end of fire season means that seasonal firefighters are released, dispatch levels are reduced and some remote facilities are closed or reduce hours. Airtankers will be removed from service and enter winter maintenance at McClellan Park in Sacramento. The San Diego Unit will be the exception, where two airtankers and one air attack plane will remain stationed there throughout the winter to be staffed and dispatched if fire activity warrants.

Fire Season 2002 presented some of the most extremely dry conditions in recorded history in southern California. Due to the extraordinary threat of wildfire, Governor Davis augmented CDF forces with an extra firefighter on each engine and reactivated other resources which had been set aside due to budget constraints. So far, CDF firefighters have faced 350 fires more than is typical, yet those fires have burned 2,000 fewer acres than average. CDF managers noted many incidents when the extra resources made the difference in keeping fires small.

###

